

Region 3 Ethylene oxide (EtO) outreach activities

There are 2 facets of Regional EtO activities initiated by Bill Wehrum, Assistant Administrator, Office of Air and Radiation in early 2019. These activities continue to date. One aspect is the technical side where information concerning risk modeling, ambient monitoring, source monitoring, etc., are discussed national among regional offices and headquarters and are then disseminated to affected state and local agencies. The other aspect is the communications side where information requested from constituents, local residents, community advocates, Environmental Justice (EJ), journalists, and legislators are addressed.

Technical Information

The following are a list of contacts made since the 2014 NATA was publicly released.

August 22, 2018	On the day of it's release, R3 was attending the Mid-Atlantic Regional Air Management Association's (MARAMA) Air Toxics conference. A presentation on the 2014 NATA was given to attendees (R3 State/local agencies, New Jersey and North Carolina also attended).
Sept. 5, 2018	R3 annual State Air Directors meeting; the same MARAMA presentation was given to the air directors. States began discussions with high risk facilities to determine any options to reduce EtO emissions.
Fall 2018	Internal to EPA, staff were participating in gathering any permitting, enforcement, monitoring data to better inform HQ on the 2014 analysis. Some Region offices decided to conduct ambient monitoring. R3 did not, as we were informed about monitoring issues concerning EtO.
February 2019	Bill Wehrum requested Regional offices provide one Regional technical contact and one communication contact so that information and issues can be exchanged more effectively.
April 2019	Received first call from community advocate in WV. We (technical, communication, and EJ) held another conference call with her in July 19, 2019 and plan to hold quarterly calls (next one in October).
April 30, 2019	Region 3 participated on the National Environmental Justice Advisory Council (NEJAC) was held on April 30 through May 2. The meeting began with a public comment period, that included comments from citizens regarding ethylene oxide, a chemical used in facilities around that country; that has come to national attention due to releases, concerns regarding exposures, public health concerns related to toxicity and risk, and citizens right to know. Citizens also commented on specific facilities including the Croda facility in DE.
May 2019	Technical monitoring visit to West Virginia (5/28-31) and we discussed EtO as part of the agenda.
June 6, 2019	First call from journalist at Allentown Morning Call re: Braun, background info on 2014 NATA was explained.

June 10, 2019	WV follow-up call to share revised risk modeling data using 2017 emissions. Plan to revise modeling using local meteorological data.
July 8, 2019	Call with DE regarding Croda. Discussed currently plans for Croda in order to restart EtO production; new permitting conditions; stack testing requirements.
July 10, 2019	Call with PA regarding Braun. Provided revised risk modeling data and preliminary EJ Screen reports. PA plans to conduct an inspection in next few months and will be using toxic vapor analyzer (TVA) to check for leaks at the facility. Also, the permit is up for renewal in 2021.
July 17, 2019	Second call from Allentown journalist to discuss and confirm PA activities at Braun.
July 30, 2019	Technical call on ambient monitoring of EtO conducted by Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards (OAQPS) with PA, DE, WV—our states with high risk facilities.
August 6, 2019	R3 briefed PA Senator Toomey’s environment, communications, and health staff on the risk factors associated with ethylene oxide (ETO), the regulatory framework for air toxics, and roles and responsibilities of EPA and PADEP.